MICROFICHED

SB-10
Switch & Balance Unit

—Instruction Manual—

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INSTRUCTION MANUAL

MODEL SB-10 SWITCH AND BALANCE UNIT

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The Model SB-10 Switch and Balance Unit

1.0 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The SB-10 Switch and Balance Unit is designed to provide a method of sequentially reading the output of ten (10) channels of strain gage information on a single strain indicator. Each channel can be initially balanced to zero output to greatly simplify data interpretation and reduction. In addition, any SB-10 will intermix quarter-, half- and full-bridge circuits and offers full isolation for each individual circuit, thus preventing any defect in one input from having any effect on any other inputs. An OPEN switch position permits the use of more than one SB-10 with the same strain indicator.

Although designed primarily as a companion switch and balance unit for the Model P-3500 Digital Strain Indicator, the SB-10 can be used with any strain indicator.

The unique gold-plated push clamp binding posts allow fast, convenient, reliable connection of input circuits.

"Common dummy" connections are provided for use with strain indicators which do not incorporate built-in dummies, or to use a common compensating gage.

The balancing controls are 10-turn potentiometers which permit very fine balance adjustments for each input circuit. The Model SB-10 is provided with locking, concentric-dial counting knobs that permit the user to easily reproduce a previous balance setting. The Model SB-10L, a basic version of the SB-10, also features locking potentiometers, but without turns-counting dials.

CAUTION

When it becomes necessary to clean the SB-10, do not use solvents on the front panel or on the information label inside the lid.

2.0 SPECIFICATIONS

2.1 CAPACITY

10 channels plus OPEN position.

2.2 EXTERNAL CIRCUITS

Will accept quarter-, half-, or full-bridge circuits in any combination.

2.3 INPUT BRIDGE RESISTANCE

50 to 2000Ω.

2.4 OUTPUT

Compatible with any strain indicator.

2.5 BALANCE RANGE (GF=2)

Quarter and Half Bridge:
±2000$\mu\epsilon$ with 350Ω half-bridge in strain indicator.
Full Bridge:
±2000$\mu\epsilon$ for 350Ω bridge. Range proportional to bridge resistance.

2.6 BALANCE CONTROL KNOBS

SB-10: Locking, concentric turns-counting knobs
SB-10L: Locking knobs

2.7 BALANCE RESOLUTION (GF=2)

Better than 1$\mu\epsilon$ in ±2000$\mu\epsilon$ range.

2.8 SWITCHING REPEATABILITY

Better than 1$\mu\epsilon$ for gage resistance of 120Ω or higher.

2.9 CASE

Aluminum. Dust and spray-tight with detachable cover.

2.10 SIZE

9 W x 6 H x 6 D in
(230 x 150 x 150 mm)

2.11 WEIGHT

5-1/2 lb *(2.4 kg)*

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF CONTROLS

3.1 OUTPUT BINDING POSTS

For connection to strain indicator.

3.2 DUMMY BINDING POSTS

For connection of common "dummy" or compensating gage in quarter-bridge applications.

3.3 CHANNEL SWITCH

To select desired strain gage input channel. OPEN position is used when reading inputs from other SB-10's wired in parallel to the same strain indicator.

3.4 BALANCE KNOBS

10-turn controls used to compensate for the initial unbalance in each input gage circuit (see paragraph 4.5.5).

The balance knobs are provided with locking turns-counting dials to permit the user to easily repeat a previous balance setting, and to prevent accidental rotation. The SB-10L incorporates only the locking feature on the balance knobs.

3.5 INPUT PUSH-POSTS

Five push-posts are provided for each input channel. Various bridge configurations require the use of two, three, or four push-posts (see paragraph 4.4.3).

4.0 OPERATING PROCEDURE

All set-up and operating instructions in the manual apply to both the Model SB-10 and the Model SB-10L. It is strongly recommended that the operator read this manual in its entirety before commencing to operate the SB-10 or SB-10L Switch and Balance Units.

This manual is written primarily covering use with the following strain indicators: the P-3500, P-350, P-350A, Model 3800, V/E-20, V/E-20A, and BAM-1. However, operation with most other strain indicators is possible using essentially the same procedures.

4.1 DETACHABLE COVER

The instrument as supplied is equipped with hinges which will allow removal of the cover. To effect removal, bend the open-sided portion of the cover hinge upwards far enough to clear the center section of the body hinge. If you prefer a permanently attached cover, disregard these instructions.

4.2 INDICATOR CONNECTIONS

4.2.1 While the Model SB-10 Switch and Balance Unit is designed primarily for use with the Model P-3500 Portable Strain Indicator, it can be used with any similar self-contained indicator designed for use with a single strain gage circuit.

AWG 18, 20, or 22 stranded wire is recommended for connecting the SB-10 to the strain indicator. Six leadwires are provided for this purpose.

4.2.2 Connections to Model P-3500, P-350, P-350A, and Model 3800 Strain Indicators:

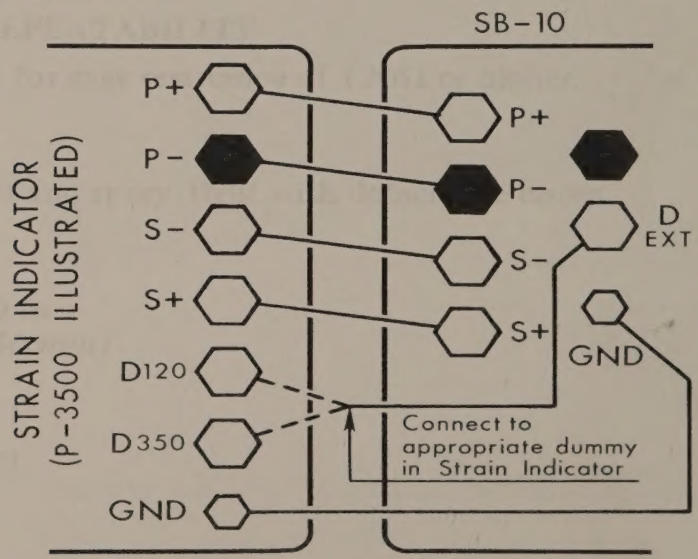


Figure 1

SB-10 binding posts P+, P–, S+, and S– must always be connected to the strain indicator. Good engineering practice dictates that the two GND terminals be connected together and grounded (see Figure 1).

If one or more channels on the SB-10 are to be used for measuring 120Ω or 350Ω quarter bridges, the yellow "D EXT" binding post on the SB-10 must be connected to one of the "D" terminals on the P-3500, P-350, P-350A, and the Model 3800 (D120 for 120Ω gages, D350 for 350Ω gages). Alternately, this wire may be omitted and a "dummy" gage or highly stable resistor of appropriate resistance must then be attached between the black and yellow DUMMY binding posts on the SB-10.

If one or more channels on the SB-10 are to be used for measuring quarter bridges with a resistance other than 120Ω or 350Ω, the alternate procedure above must be used.

NOTE: Many P-350's of earlier manufacture used slightly different designations for the four corners of the bridge as follows:

Current Designation	Earlier Designation
P+	P1
P–	P2
S+	S2
S–	S1

4.2.3 Connection to V/E-20, V/E-20A, and BAM-1 Strain Indicators

SB-10 Binding Posts	V/E-20A Binding Posts	V/E-20 Binding Posts	V/E-20 or V/E-20A INPUT Connector	BAM-1 Binding Posts
P+	S+	+ Signal	C	C
P–	S–	– Signal	D	D
S+	P+	Power +	A	A
S–	P–	Power –	B	B
D EXT	D120 or D350	BCR120 or BCR350	F or G	D120 (if present)
GND	GND	GRD	E	GRD

SB-10 binding posts P+, P–, S+, S–, and GND must always be connected to the strain indicator.

If one or more channels on the SB-10 are to be used for measuring 120Ω or 350Ω quarter bridges, the yellow "D EXT" binding post on the SB-10 must be connected to the appropriate DUMMY binding post (or connector pin) on the strain indicator (older BAM-1's do not provide this feature so the following procedure must be used). Alternately, this wire may be omitted and a "dummy" gage or highly stable resistor of the appropriate resistance must then be attached between the black and yellow DUMMY binding posts on the SB-10.

If one or more channels on the SB-10 are to be used for measuring quarter bridges with a resistance other than 120Ω or 350Ω, the alternate procedure above must be used.

4.2.4 Connections to Strain Indicators other than the P-3500, P-350, P-350A, Model 3800, V/E-20, V/E-20A, or BAM-1:

a. Connect the P+ and P– binding posts to the bridge excitation terminals on the strain indicator; the P+ binding post should be connected to the strain indicator terminal normally adjacent to a single "active" gage.

b. Connect the S+ and S– binding posts to the "bridge output" terminals on the strain indicator; the S– binding post should be connected to the strain indicator terminal normally used at the center-tap of a fully active half bridge [that is, the binding post(s) electrically common to the "active" and "compensating" gages]; the S+ binding post should be connected to the strain indicator terminal normally used only for full-bridge inputs.

c. The "D EXT" binding post on the SB-10 may not have a counterpart on some strain indicators (external completion required).

d. The GND terminal on the SB-10 must be connected to the ground terminal on the strain indicator, and must be physically grounded to provide adequate shielding.

4.3 MULTIPLE SB-10'S

Two or more SB-10's can be simultaneously connected to the same strain indicator to read more than 10 input circuits, which may be mixed quarter, half and full bridges. It is also possible to use two or more SB-10's to group quarter-bridge inputs of different resistance [e.g., 10 (ten) 120Ω inputs and 10 (ten) 350Ω inputs].

The same respective binding posts (P+, P–, S+ and S–) on all SB-10's must be connected in parallel. The black and yellow completion post(s) are each wired in accordance with the gage circuits connected to each individual SB-10; thus all D EXT binding posts are often, but not always, wired in parallel.

4.4 GAGE CONNECTIONS

4.4.1 The existing environment may determine the type of wire used. The following characteristics must be carefully considered:

a. The insulation must be compatible with temperatures involved.

b. To avoid an excessive loss of sensitivity (decreased effective gage factor) with long lead lengths, leads should have low resistance (at the operating temperature).

c. To provide stability with changing ambient temperature, the product of resistance and temperature coefficient of resistance must be held to an absolute minimum (at the operating temperature). Copper is thus better than any other generally available material except Constantan at normal ambient temperatures; however, the loss in sensitivity caused by the increased resistivity of Constantan can be very appreciable, and its use is therefore not recommended.

d. The conductor material must be readily solderable for most installations.

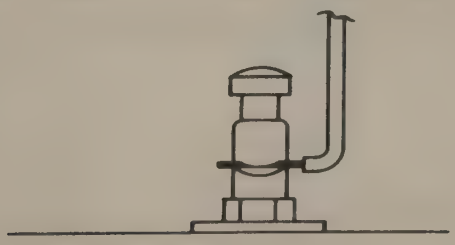
e. In quarter- and half-bridge circuits, all conductors (for a given input) should be of the same AWG size and length.

4.4.2 Wire Size and Stranding

The input push-posts will accept wire from AWG-18 to AWG-30 *(1.0 to 0.25 mm)*. Especially when using the heavier wire, stranded is more satisfactory. Unless other circumstances dictate a choice, AWG-26 or -30 *(0.4 or 0.25 mm)* stranded wire will normally give good performance. At the SB-10 ends, the insulation should be stripped about 3/8 in *(10 mm)* and the strands twisted and tinned with solder.

When leads longer than 10 ft *(3 m)* are used, careful consideration should be given to the apparent reduction in gage factor of the strain gages, especially with the larger AWG numbers.

To attach a wire to the push-posts, bend a right-angle hook about 1/2 in *(13 mm)* from the end of the wire, press the push-post with one hand and hook the wire in the notch with the other; release the push-post.



4.4.3 Input Gage Circuits

QUARTER BRIDGE – Independent circuits (Figure 2A)

"Quarter-bridge" operation indicates that only one gage is active with strain. If the strain indicator has built-in dummy gages as in the P-3500, the D EXT binding post on the SB-10 is tied directly to the D120 or D350 binding post on the indicator. Alternately, a single dummy resistor may be used for all 10 inputs – this ultra-stable resistor (same resistance as the active gage) must be attached between the black and yellow completion binding posts on the SB-10 (using short leads).

In either arrangement above, good strain gage practice dictates the use of the three-wire circuit as shown in Figure 2A.

Under very unusual circumstances, two-wire circuits may be used by shorting together the S– and D push-posts. In this case, if all inputs are quarter bridges, the short can be placed at the large S– and D EXT binding posts; the D push-post is not used.

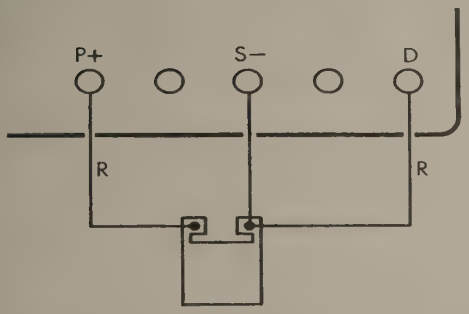
Due to the high temperature coefficient of resistance of copper wire, ambient temperature changes on the leadwires can give a large false indication of strain when only two leadwires are used. [Using 30 ft *(9 m)* of twisted-pair AWG 26 *(0.4 mm)* wire to a 120Ω gage, the apparent zero will shift more than 200$\mu\epsilon$ for a 10°F *(5.6°C)* change. Even using AWG 20 wire in this situation, the shift would be over 50$\mu\epsilon$.] The recommended three-wire system puts half of the temperature-induced leadwire resistance change in series with the dummy gage while the other half remains in series with the active gage. Equal changes in lead resistances in these adjacent arms do not affect the strain measurement.

The best practice is to ALWAYS use three leads.

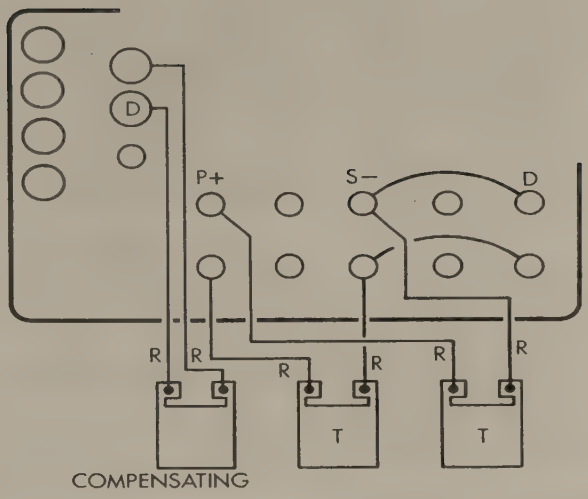
QUARTER BRIDGE – External compensating gage (Figure 2B)

Use of an external compensating gage may be required for special test conditions involving **remote** measurements at temperatures somewhat beyond normal ambient. In this configuration, the common compensating gage is mounted to an unstrained member of the part to be tested. It should be noted that **all** leadwires must be the same length (resistance), and in the same temperature environment. A fault in a common compensating gage will affect all active gage readings.

NOTE: Leads marked "R" must be same length and size for best balance and stability.

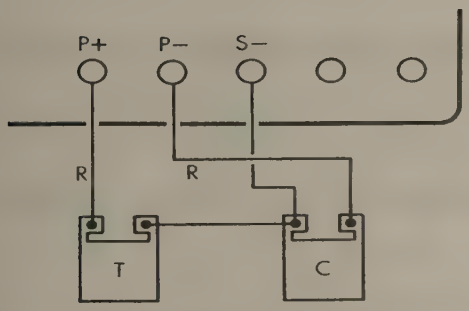


2A. INDEPENDENT CIRCUITS

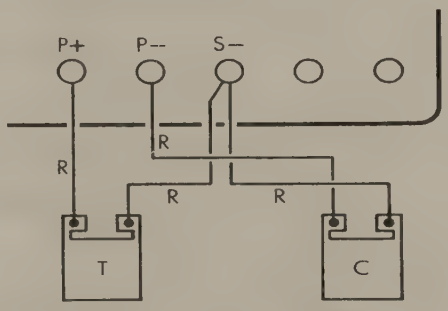


2B. EXTERNAL COMPENSATING GAGE

QUARTER BRIDGE

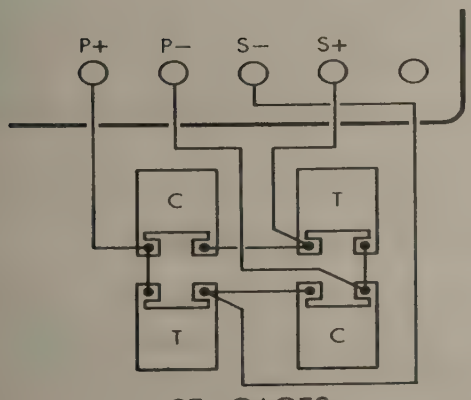


2C. GAGES ADJACENT

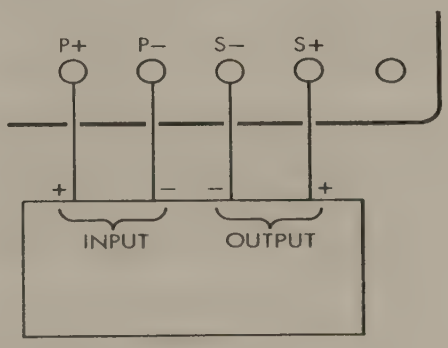


2D. GAGES APART

HALF BRIDGE



2E. GAGES



2F. TRANSDUCER

FULL BRIDGE

FIGURE 2: INPUT CONNECTIONS

HALF BRIDGE (Figures 2C and 2D)

"Half-bridge" operation indicates that two gages are bonded to the specimen; both may be active with strain or one may be in an unstressed area adjacent to the active gage and thus becomes a compensating gage. (With a uniform temperature over the test specimen, a common compensating gage is more economical — see Quarter Bridge, above).

FULL BRIDGE

See Figures 2E and 2F.

4.5 OBTAINING READINGS

4.5.1 Strain Indicator BRIDGE Selector

NOTE: Where more than one bridge configuration is used with the same SB-10, follow the specific instructions for the configuration corresponding to each position of the CHANNEL Selector Switch.

Full Bridge:

Set the BRIDGE Selector Switch on the indicator to FULL ("4" on the BAM-1).

Half or Quarter Bridge:

Set the BRIDGE Selector Switch on the indicator to HALF ("2" on the BAM-1).

4.5.2 Strain Indicator BALANCE Control

a. **P-3500** — Set coarse BALANCE switch to 0, and lock fine BALANCE control at 500 (mid-point).
b. **P-350** — Turn BALANCE control about 5 turns from ccw stop and lock it (if there is a counting knob on this control, set it to 500).
c. **P-350A** — Set the BALANCE toggle switch at OFF (down).
d. **Model 3800** — Set coarse BALANCE switch at 0, BALANCE RANGE switch at 10%, and lock fine BALANCE control at 500 (mid-point).
e. **V/E-20 or V/E-20A** — Set BALANCE — COARSE at "0", and lock BALANCE — FINE at 500.
f. **BAM-1** — Set BRIDGE balance control at 500.

NOTE: With a perfectly balanced bridge, the SB-10 BALANCE control range is symmetrical (positive and negative portion of range are equal). If the initial unbalance of the input channels are non-symmetrical, it may be possible to bring the nominal unbalanced reading within the balance range of the Model SB-10 by adjusting the strain indicator balance control. See section 4.5.5 regarding range.

4.5.3 Setting BALANCE Controls on SB-10 (under "no load")

a. **P-3500 and Model 3800** – Set SB-10 to CHANNEL 1; turn corresponding BALANCE control on SB-10 until a readout display of 000 is obtained and lock knob. Repeat for remaining 9 channels.
b. **P-350 or P-350A** – Set digital counter on P-350A to –0000. Set SB-10 to CHANNEL 1; turn corresponding BALANCE control on SB-10 and lock when null meter is exactly centered. Repeat for remaining 9 channels.
c. **V/E-20 or V/E-20A** – Set RANGE selector to X1 range. Set SB-10 to CHANNEL 1; turn corresponding BALANCE control on SB-10 and lock when the digital display indicates 000. Check SPAN within CALIB position and reset SB-10 BALANCE (and V/E-20 SPAN) as required in the normal manner. Repeat BALANCE procedure for remaining channels (the SPAN setting will be the same for all channels).
d. **BAM-1** – Turn GAIN fully clockwise. Check amplifier BALANCE as usual, then turn BDG PWR to ON. Set SB-10 to CHANNEL 1; turn (and lock) corresponding BALANCE control on SB-10 to center BAM-1 meter. Repeat for remaining channels.

4.5.4 Taking Strain Readings

Readings can now be taken under various load conditions in the normal manner for the strain indicator in use, selecting the desired strain gage circuit with the CHANNEL selector switch. If desired, record the balance counting knob settings for future reference.

If more than one SB-10 is used (they are all connected in parallel to the indicator – see Section 4.3), all CHANNEL switches should be set at OPEN except the one containing the circuit to be measured.

4.5.5 Range of the Balance Potentiometers

It is noted that the range of the BALANCE potentiometers is dependent on both (1) the resistance in series with the potentiometer wiper and (2) the value of the bridge resistance attached between terminals P+, S+ and P–.

Should it be desired to increase the ±2000$\mu\epsilon$ range, the 86 600Ω resistor (R11) can be replaced with a somewhat smaller value (for large balance ranges, a Vishay resistor or a wire-wound type should be used to preserve stability); half the value will double the range, etc.

The balance range is also directly proportional to the bridge resistance. Obviously then, in full-bridge operation the balance range will be approximately $\pm 2000\mu\epsilon$ for a 350Ω bridge, $\pm 680\mu\epsilon$ for a 120Ω bridge, etc. On half- or quarter-bridge operation, the range is dependent on the value of the "dummy half-bridge" between P–, S+ and P+. For the P-3500 and Model 3800, the "dummy" half-bridge is 350Ω, thus giving a range of $\pm 2000\mu\epsilon$. For the P-350 and P-350A Strain Indicators this is 120Ω, yielding a balance range of $\pm 680\mu\epsilon$. For the V/E-20A and BAM-1, the "dummy" half-bridge is 400Ω, yielding a range of $\pm 2280\mu\epsilon$.

5.0 MAINTENANCE

Within the warranty period, you should not attempt any repairs or maintenance to the SB-10 Unit. In the event of a possible malfunction during this period, contact our local sales representative or the factory. Since the SB-10 is basically a passive device, no regular maintenance should be necessary.

5.1 CONTACTS

Should the repeatability of readings deteriorate, and provided you are assured there is no change in the input to the instrument (two-wire quarter-bridge circuits are extremely sensitive to temperature changes and often give effects similar to a defective switch), the most likely cause would be excessive corrosion on the silver contacts of the channel selector switch. In this event, the unit should be disassembled by removing the instrument from its case (4 Phillips screws at the corners of the front panel). Clean the contacts with Stoddard solvent using a "Q-tip" and relubricate contact surfaces with a light film of white unmedicated Vaseline (Blue Seal). An alternate procedure is to spray contact with Miller-Stephenson MS-230 Contact Re-Nu and manually rotate switch, followed by spray application of CRC3-36 to lubricate contacts. Avoid solvent contact to the front panel to prevent permanent marring.

5.2 SCHEMATIC

The schematic of the SB-10 unit is included in the back of this manual.

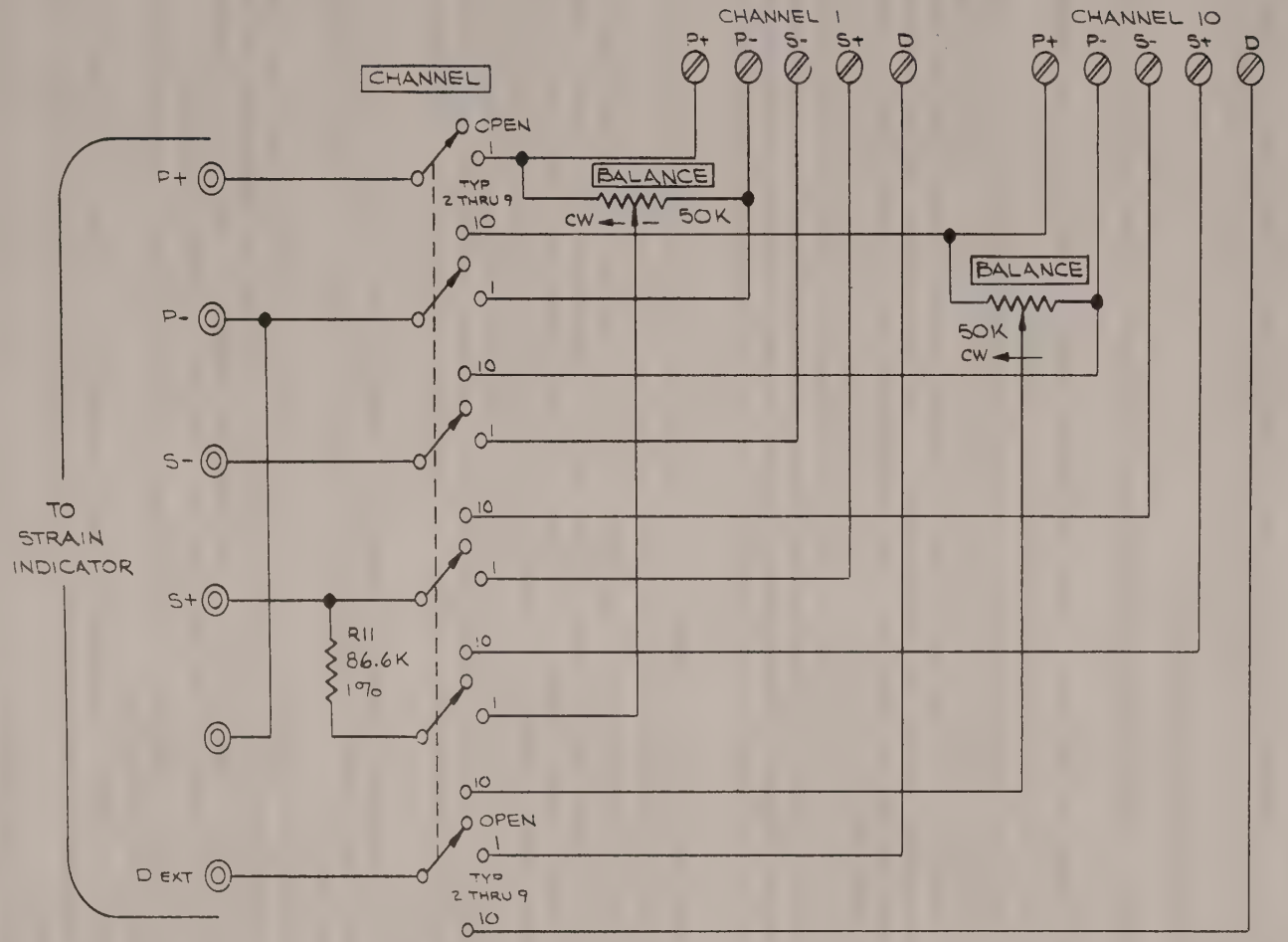
5.3 PARTS LIST

The following maintenance and repair parts are available:

DESCRIPTION	PART NO.
Output and Dummy Binding Posts:	
Red	13X200150
Black	13X200151
White	13X200152
Green	13X200153
Yellow	13X200155
Input Push-Posts:	
Post w/Red Cap	12X700072
Post w/Black Cap	12X700070
Post w/White Cap	12X700079
Post w/Green Cap	12X700075
Post only	12X700097
Yellow Cap only	12X700064
Balance Potentiometer (50K)	24X400107
Balance Resistor (86.6K)	15X300351
Channel Selector Switch	10X500132
Counting Knob for Balance Potentiometer (SB-10)	13X400057
Knob for Balance Potentiometer (SB-10L)	13X400023
Knob Lock for Balance Potentiometer (SB-10L)	13X400028
Knob for Channel Selector Switch	13X400088

5.4 For repairs or replacements involving other than the above, contact the factory.

5.5 **Important Note**: To avoid damage, do not allow cleaning solvents of any kind to come in contact with the front panel. Limited use of Windex will usually provide satisfactory results.



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MEASUREMENTS GROUP, INC.

SCHEMATIC
SWITCH & BALANCE UNIT
SB-10

200-130981A

WARRANTY

Measurements Group, Inc., warrants all instruments it manufactures to be free from defect in materials and factory workmanship, and agrees to repair or replace any instrument that fails to perform as specified within one year after date of shipment. This warranty shall not apply to any instrument that has been:

i) repaired, worked on or altered by persons unauthorized by the Measurements Group in such a manner as to injure, in our sole judgment, the performance, stability, or reliability of the instrument;

ii) subjected to misuse, negligence, or accident;
or

iii) connected, installed, or used otherwise than in accordance with the instructions furnished by us.

At no charge, we will repair, at our plant, or an authorized repair station, or at our option, replace any of our products found to be defective under this warranty.

This warranty is in lieu of any other warranties, expressed or implied, including any implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. There are no warranties which extend beyond the description of the face hereof. Purchaser acknowledges that all goods purchased from Measurements Group are purchased as is, and buyer states that no salesman, agent, employee or other person has made any such representations or warranties or otherwise assumed for Measurements Group any liability in connection with the sale of any goods to the purchaser. Buyer hereby waives all rights buyer may have arising out of any breach of contract or breach of warranty on the part of Measurements Group, to any incidental or consequential damages, including but not limited to damages to property, damages for injury to the person, damages for loss of use, loss of time, loss of profits or income, or loss resulting from personal injury.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages for consumer products, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

The Purchaser agrees that the Purchaser is responsible for notifying any subsequent buyer of goods manufactured by Measurements Group of the warranty provisions, limitations, exclusions and disclaimers stated herein, prior to the time any such goods are purchased by such buyer, and the Purchaser hereby agrees to indemnify and hold Measurements Group harmless from any claim asserted against or liability imposed on Measurements Group occasioned by the failure of the Purchaser to so notify such buyer. This provision is not intended to afford subsequent purchasers any warranties or rights not expressly granted to such subsequent purchasers under the law.

The Measurements Group reserves the right to make any changes in the design or construction of its instruments at any time, without incurring any obligation to make any change whatever in units previously delivered.

The Measurements Group's sole liabilities, and buyer's sole remedies, under this agreement shall be limited to the purchase price, or at our sole discretion, to the repair or replacement of any instrument that proves, upon examination, to be defective, when returned to our factory, transportation prepaid by the buyer, within one year from the date of original shipment.

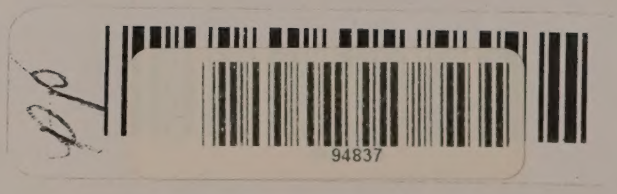
Return transportation charges of repaired or replacement instruments under warranty will be prepaid by the Measurements Group, Inc.

The Measurements Group is solely a manufacturer and assumes no responsibility of any form for the accuracy or adequacy of any test results, data, or conclusions which may result from the use of its equipment.

The manner in which the equipment is employed and the use to which the data and test results may be put are completely in the hands of the purchaser. Measurements Group, Inc., shall in no way be liable for damages consequential or incidental to defects in any of its products.

This warranty constitutes the full understanding between the manufacturer and buyer, and no terms, conditions, understanding, or agreement purporting to modify or vary the terms hereof shall be binding unless hereafter made in writing and signed by an authorized official of Measurements Group, Inc.

NOTES



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